

Comments to Draft dated May 8, 1994:

- It could be considered to add some more "picturizing" examples to the abstract text in order to make the points easy to memorize.

Examples:

Re behavioural tolerance as a widespread characteristic of many compounds, which, when first used, may have certain unpleasant characteristics to which the user may at some time become accustomed (page 5): *The first contacts of children with vinegar, salty fish, high volume music etc.*

- In the paragraph on 'tobacco withdrawal' (page 4) the percentage of smokers experiencing no withdrawal symptoms could be mentioned (acc. to Shiffman, 1979: 25% as cited by Warburton 1989, original Shiffman article not available to us) to prevent a misinterpretation of the term 'many'. The same author published in 1991 (Refining models of dependence: variations across persons and situations; Br. J. Addict. 86: 611-615) the statement: 'Some people can smoke for decades without developing dependence' and 'Current theory and data fail to provide adequate accounts ... of the developmental progression from initial experimentation to dependence'.
- The last sentence of the same paragraph could lead into further consideration of other substances than nicotine being accused as causing dependence. Is something known from nicotine patches that they 'cause' or 'prevent' withdrawal symptoms? Ciba Pharma states on the German description of their Nicotinell TTS patches that a sudden discontinuation of the use of the patch will probably have the same results as the withdrawal of similar amounts of nicotine in conjunction with the stop of smoking.
- The argument of changing terminology and the semantic confusion among scientific publications (page 1) could be supported by citing page 226 of the the WHO Memorandum of 1981 (see enclosure). A list of the related terms would help to show the problem:

neuroadaptation
physical dependence
drug dependence
drug related disability
psycho-physiological-social syndrome
reinforcement
addiction
habituation
psychic dependence
disability
compulsory behaviour
habit

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conditioning
need
craving
compulsive use

- Is the restriction necessary 'that whether a substance is 'addictive' depends in part on one's choice of definitions and criteria.'?
- Dr. Balfour's statement is particularly valuable, if derived from a more recent publication (year not given in the reference yet); then the year could be quoted in the text on page 4.
- To the citation of DeNoble's testimony it could be added that his work showed reinforcement in experimental animals and that Goldberg and Henningfield (Pharmacol., Biochem. And Behav. 30: 227-234 (1988)) concluded: '...nicotine can act as an effective reinforcer for humans and experimental animals, but it does so under a more limited range of conditions than do reinforcers such as IV cocaine injection or food presentation' (p.233). 'In other words, nicotine is less effective than food for training animals to lever press and it is certainly not as powerful as heroine or cocaine' (Warburton, 1989).

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